

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

***Please replace the first full paragraph on page 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:***

As an alternative to the above, calculating back-off windows may also be accomplished using the following functions. If the State Index  $i$  is odd then the Back-off Window  $W(i)$  may be calculated using  $W(i) = 2^{((i+1)/2)}$  (same as hereinabove). However, for even values of the State Index  $i$  the formula Back-off Window =  $(2^{(2i/2)} + 2^{((i+2)/2)})/2$  is used. Shown in TABLE II are corresponding back-off windows for a range of state index values from 1-19, where the back-off windows were calculated using the Back-off Window formulas hereinabove. As seen in the table, according to the present invention, the back-off windows do not increase in the conventional exponential manner (e.g. using  $2^i$ ).